

123

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Brandt May Propose Reparations Settlement with Yugoslavs

West German Foreign Minister Willi Brandt hopes to make a breakthrough on the problem of war reparations which could have far reaching consequences for Bonn's Eastern policy during his 12 to 14 June visit to Yugoslavia.

Bonn is considering a plan which would authorize Brandt to recognize the FRG's "moral responsibility" for World War II damage. Under the new plan Belgrade would be offered an extensive long-term credit of 400,000,000 German Marks--about half the Yugoslav reparation claim. Repayment would be renegotiable, that is to say not really expected. Meanwhile West Germany will maintain its official position that it cannot pay reparations unless Yugoslavia recognizes the FRG as the sole successor to the Third Reich.

The settlement of this highly sensitive issue would give a dramatic boost to Yugoslav-West German relations, and would also establish important precedents for other East European countries. In some countries however, the formula appears unrealistic. The same scale of payments applied to Poland, for example, would be staggering, and probably would be rejected out of hand as an attempt to buy off the Warsaw regime.

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Poland's National Front Elects New Chairman

The 4 June plenum of the National Unity Front (FJN), the main political mass organization, elected chief of state and politburo member Marian Spychalski as its new chairman. Spychalski replaces the ailing Edward Ochab, whom Spychalski also replaced in the presidential post last April.

In his keynote speech to the FJN plenum, Spychalski strongly reiterated the regime's familiar line on recent political developments at home and abroad. Spychalski declared that the "attacks" on the state and party were the work of "nearly all reactionary and anti-socialist forces" in the country, supported by "foreign subversive centers," and ideologically motivated by "revisionism." Although he added that "Zionist elements" allied with "revisionists"

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-2-

played a "substantial role" in the recent events in Poland, he did not dwell on the Jewish issue.

The election of Spychalski--a close associate of party boss Gomulka--as FJN chairman again underscores Gomulka's strength against the party's hardline faction which had criticized the FJN for lack of political "engagement" under Ochab's leadership. At the same time, Spychalski's speech suggests that this fault will now be remedied, but probably to the benefit of Gomulka's clique.

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### Vodka, Verbosity, and Vexations at Czech Celebrations in Poland

The 9 May Czechoslovak National Day reception in Szczecin, hosted by the Czechoslovak consul Tvardik, started out as a political minuet and ended as a cartoonist's paradise.

The affair started with three markedly different toasts by the Czech, Pole, and Russian, in that order. Speaking in Czech, Tvardik stressed Prague's desire for improved relations with all nations of the world, ignored Vietnam and the "imperialist threat," and thanked the Russians for their "help in the liberation of Czechoslovakia." In an aside to the US consul, two of Tvardik's staff members apologized for his inability, "on this occasion," to thank the US for its liberation of western Bohemia.

The Pole's nervous toast dripped with the history of Polish-Czech cooperation over the last 20 years, and with pious hopes that this would continue. Speaking in Russian, the Soviet consul delivered a long, cliché-ridden toast

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-3-

stressing the Red Army's role in Czechoslovakia's liberation, and warned against "imperialist attempts" to split the Socialist camp by "diversionist methods." With a pointed look at his Czech host, he concluded that "this too would fail."

The reception thereafter relaxed, and the gathering split neatly into sober Czechs, Americans, and Swedes on the one hand, and plastered Russians and Poles on the other. Just before departing the US consul was intercepted by a steel-toothed, doused Soviet general who, with frequent eyeball-rolling, guttural giggling, and knuckle-rapping along his throat, seemed intent on reliving a whiskey party with US officers on the Elbe 23 years ago. "Those were the good old days," he concluded before succumbing to a stupor.

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#### Warhol Moves Into Polish Big Time

American pop artist Andy Warhol was awarded one of the three first prizes last Monday at the second international biennial poster contest in Warsaw. His winning entry was a Lincoln Center poster featuring a pop-art theater ticket. As a result of his win, Warhol will be eligible for an exhibit of his own as part of the next Warsaw biennial contest in 1970.

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